



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Registry

85- 3342/2

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 31 OCT 1985

SUBJECT: Request for Satellite Communications Support (U)

(S) In response to your memorandum, same subject, dated September 30, 1985, the request for additional UHF satellite communications support is approved. More specifically,

(S) As you know, UHF satellite communications have become the mainstay for mobile, tactical command and control of U.S. forces throughout the world. Accordingly, our on-orbit communications capacity has become a scarce and precious commodity that is allocated to users on a priority basis after careful consideration. Recent events have not eased our problems. Growing requirements, such as the establishment of the Central Command, have substantially increased the demand for satellite capacity. At the same time, recent satellite failures have reduced the capacity we had expected to have available on-orbit. The combination of these events has exacerbated an already difficult situation; however, during the evaluation process, the importance of your mission was a key factor in approving your request.

(S) I would like to request that the Department of Defense be notified immediately in the event that these accesses are no longer required. In addition, I request that you carefully scrutinize any future requests for additional capacity. Approval of additional capacity can be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

(S) The cooperation and rapport established between your Office of Communications and the Navy's Space Systems Division has become an effective tool in the management of this dynamic system. The Joint Communications Satellite Center in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been formed to monitor the allocation of the satellite accesses and ensure the efficiency of the overall system. By copy of this letter, I will direct them to continue to work with your communications personnel to prevent reassignment of these accesses to other users.

cc: CNO, OP-094
Director, C3S, OJCS

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